



Indirect Effects Analysis

Federal Highway Administration

Directions: Key elements (review questions and steps) that comprise the Community of Practice for indirect effects analyses are located in the right hand column. Identify the location within the analytic documentation (for example, the page and paragraph in the associated Environmental Assessment) in the left hand column. For each IEA, all key elements must be explicit in the analytic document. At a minimum, all key elements must be mapped to specific information in the analytic document.

NOTE that IEA are action focused! If all three test question answers are yes, then analyze the potential indirect effect. For sensitive or potentially controversial issues, document negative responses particularly well. *Sierra Club v. Marsh* 976 F.2d 763, 767 (1st Cir. 1992) also addresses the likelihood of potential indirect effects and prudent decision making. See NCHRP reports #403 and #466 for their discussion of additional IEA issues discussed in the courts.

Judicial Review Standard: The “Sierra Club v. Marsh*” Reasonably Foreseeable Test

* *Sierra Club v. Marsh*, 769 F.2d 868 (1st Cir. 1985). See also NCHRP Report #466, cited below.

Location

	Can one be confident that the impacts are likely to occur?
	Can impacts be sufficiently described and specified <i>now</i> to allow for useful evaluation?
	If impacts are not evaluated now, will future evaluation of impacts be irrelevant?

Best Practices: The NCHRP Report #466* 8 steps

* Louis Berger Group, Inc. (2002) *National Highway Cooperative Research Program Report 466 Desk Reference for Estimating the Indirect Effects of Proposed Transportation Projects*. Project B25-10(02) FY '96 Transportation Research Board, National Research Council Washington, D.C.: National Academy Press, 109 pp.).

Location

	Scoping – identify basic approach, effort required, and
	Identify the Study Area’s Direction and Goals – define the context for the IEA
	Inventory the Study Area’s Notable Features – identify specific environmental issues
	Identify Impact-Causing Activities of Proposed Action & Alternatives – break down activities into individual, impact-causing components for analysis
	Identify Potentially Significant Indirect Effects for Analysis – catalog indirect effects by component activities; identify potentially significant indirect effects meriting further analysis
	Analyze Indirect Effects – use qualitative and quantitative techniques to estimate the magnitude and intensity of potentially significant indirect effects, and to enhance comparative description of future conditions
	Evaluate Analysis Results – evaluate the uncertainty of results for ramifications on overall assessment
	Assess Consequences and Develop Mitigation – evaluate the consequences of indirect effects in context of full range of project effects; develop strategies to avoid or lessen unacceptable effects; and, re-evaluate effects in context of mitigation strategies